

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1831

To convey certain submerged land to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 6, 2005

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN) (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To convey certain submerged land to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3       **SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN SUBMERGED LAND**

4                       **TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN**  
5                       **MARIANA ISLANDS.**

6       The first section of Public Law 93–435 (48 U.S.C.  
7       1705) is amended—

8               (1) in the second sentence of subsection (b), by  
9       inserting “Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
10       Islands,” after “Guam,”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(e)(1) Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title,  
 3 and interest of the United States in land permanently or  
 4 periodically covered by tidal water up to but not above the  
 5 line of mean high tide and seaward to a line 3 geographical  
 6 miles distant from the coastline of the territory of the  
 7 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (as modi-  
 8 fied before, on, or after the date of enactment of this sub-  
 9 section by accretion, erosion, or reliction, or in artificially  
 10 made, filled in, or reclaimed land that was formerly per-  
 11 manently or periodically covered by tidal water) are con-  
 12 veyed to the Government of the Commonwealth of the  
 13 Northern Mariana Islands to be administered in trust for  
 14 the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth.

15 “(2) The conveyance shall be subject to clauses (ii),  
 16 (iv), (v), (vii), (viii), and (ix) of subsection (b) and sub-  
 17 section (c), except that each reference to the ‘date of en-  
 18 actment of this Act’ in those clauses shall (for the pur-  
 19 poses of this subsection) be considered to be a reference  
 20 to the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

21 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY TO RESOLVE CERTAIN**  
 22 **CLAIMS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE**  
 23 **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—On the request of the Governor  
 25 of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

1 the Secretary of the Interior may settle any claim of the  
2 Commonwealth arising pursuant to any provision of the  
3 Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern  
4 Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States  
5 of America, approved by the first section of Public Law  
6 94–241 (48 U.S.C. 1801 note).

7 (b) ASSISTANCE.—

8 (1) REQUEST.—The Secretary may request as-  
9 sistance from the head of any other Federal agency  
10 in order to expeditiously resolve any claim described  
11 in subsection (a).

12 (2) PROVISION.—On request, the head of the  
13 Federal agency shall provide the assistance.

14 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
16 appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are nec-  
17 essary to carry out subsection (a).

18 (2) OTHER FUNDS.—The Secretary may also  
19 use to carry out subsection (a) any other sums that  
20 are appropriated for the purpose of a provision of  
21 the Covenant that is subject to a claim by the Com-  
22 monwealth.

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